

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY
OFFICE OF PROGRAM SERVICES
PROGRAM PROFILE

Dangerously Mentally Ill Offender (DMIO) Program

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Who Can I Contact At DBHR For More Information?

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What Is The Program Description?

In 1999, the Washington State Legislature passed SB5011. The intent of this bill is to help improve the public safety and provide additional mental health treatment for the dangerous mentally ill and chemically dependent mentally ill offenders. The law became effective March 15, 2000. The Dangerously Mentally Ill Offender (DMIO) program provides wraparound services for offenders who are currently in Washington State prisons and transitioning into the community. A key part of implementing the Dangerously Mentally Ill Offender program is community transition and care planning.

Once a DMIO participant has been identified and designated to transition to a specific community, the appropriate Regional Support Network (RSN), and the County Alcohol and Drug Coordinator are notified. The RSN representative is charged with convening the community transition and care planning meetings. These meetings involve a collaborative process and include representatives from mental health, corrections, alcohol and drug treatment, developmental disabilities, and law enforcement.

Approximately \$10,000 per year, per offender, is provided toward meeting the costs of providing these integrated treatment interventions. Finding and paying for housing for DMIOs is a significant cost to the program.

What Populations Are Served/ Who Is Eligible For This Service?

Participation in the DMIO Program is limited to current offenders residing within Washington State Prisons. The final selection of DMIO participants is made monthly by an interdisciplinary review committee.

How Many People Are Served During The Biennium?

Approximately 590 persons are designated as Dangerously Mentally Ill Offenders. Currently, 192 are active in the program (as of this printing). Approximately ninety-five percent (95%) of those designated as DMIOs are chemically dependent.

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Approximately 20% of those designated as DMIOs receive chemical dependency treatment.

What Is The Biennial Funding Amount And Sources?

The legislature mandated the DMIO program for up to five years. The estimated cost of this program is currently \$3 million per year. Sources of funds include General Fund State and Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Block Grant.

What Would Be The Impact If This Funding Were No Longer Available?

Without the Dangerously Mentally Ill Offender program, many offenders at high risk of committing serious crimes against persons would go without much needed community supervision and mental health and chemical dependency services. In addition, these adults would not be able to maintain employment or contribute financially to their community. They will possibly end up in emergency psychiatric or medical treatment, or back within the criminal justice system.

What Other Agencies Collaborate With DASA To Implement This Program?

This program is administered by the Department of Corrections and the Mental Health Division. The Mental Health Division provides funding for mental health services to the Regional Support Networks across the State. The Regional Support Networks have the option of subcontracting for needed services, with agencies that provide mental health, chemical dependency, and sex-offender treatment.

What Are The Sources For More Information?

Jo Ellen Smith, DMIO Program Administrator, Mental Health Division at (360) 725-1552 or smithjo@dshs.wa.gov.

Tom Saltrup, DMIO Program Manager, Department of Corrections at (360) 725-8692 or tesaltrup@doc1.wa.gov.